

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I am writing in support of the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue. I expect the telecommunication service industry to be forthright about the true cost of service. I have yet to accept a contract for cellular telephone service from any carrier that did not add significant charges to the advertised and assured price after I signed the contract. I was actively misled in each case to believe that these charges were some sort of tax. Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices. The telecommunication service is misrepresenting themselves as well as the influence of the government. They show no intention of being honest without regulation. Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states in doing more. The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.